

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARIAT THINKING ON UNEF ENLARGEMENT

1. DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS LIU HAS OUTLINED FOR US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE CURRENT SECRETARIAT THINKING ON ENLARGING UNEF TO MEET NEEDS OF SINAI AGREEMENT. MOST IMPORTANT NEW IDEA IS THAT A SUBSTANTIAL AUGMENTATION OF UNTSO, COUPLED WITH ENLARGEMENT OF FOUR EXISTING UNEF CONTINGENTS, WOULD ENABLE UNEF TO PERFORM ITS NEW TASKS AS EFFECTIVELY AS ADDING AN ADDITIONAL CONTINGENT- AND WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS POLITICAL COST.

2. LIU BEGAN THE DISCUSSION OCTOBER 3 BY DESCRIBING ACTIONS PLANNED BY SECRETARIAT AFTER THE SINAI AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED. IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGNATURE - WHICH U.N. ASSUMES WILL BE MIDDLE OR END OF NEXT WEEK - SECRETARIAT WILL ISSUE A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO PRESIDENT OF S.C. THIS WILL INCLUDE PROTOCOL TO AGREEMENT, BUT NOT SIILASVUO'S STATEMENT AT SIGNING CEREMONY. IT WILL STATE THAT SYG INTENDS TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION IMMEDIATELY OF FIRST PHASE OF AGREEMENT (POSSIBLY INCLUDING PROVISIO" IF SC HAS NOT OBJECTION"). IT WILL NOTE ALSO THAT NO ADDITIONAL TROOPS OR EQUIPMENT (EXCEPT A FEW SURVEYORS) WILL BE

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REQUIRED DURING INITIAL STAGE OF ESCORING TECHNICIANS TO

OILFIELDS. DURING WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, IN TIME FOR SC CONSULTATIONS OF UNEF EXTENSION, SYG WILL ISSUE HIS REGULAR REPORT TO SC ON UNEF. FOR THAT, HE WILL SPELL OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE FORCE.

3. LIU THEN PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE SECRETARIAT'S TENTATIVE THINKING ON HOW TO MEET INCREASED MANPOWER NEED OF SINAI AGREEMENT WITHOUT ADDING ANOTHER CONTINGENT. HE NOTED SECRETARIAT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL AS WELL AS FINANCIAL COST OF ADDING A CONTINGENT: LATINS WERE STILL UNABLE TO COME UP WITH A TROOP CONTRIBUTOR ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES, AND OTHER POSSIBLE WESTERN CONTRIBUTORS(SUCH AS AUSTRALIA) WOULD BE LIKELY TO INCREASE POLITICAL VULNERABILITY OF AGREEMENT. ALSO, KEEPING ADDITIONAL COSTS TO A MINIMUM WILL OF COURSE TEND TO DISARM AGREEMENT'S CRITICS.

4. WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, SECRETARIAT WAS CONSIDERING ASKING FOUR EXISTING TROOP CONTRIBUTORS (SWEDEN, FINLAND, GHANA AND INDONESIA) TO AUGMENT THEIR BATTALIONS BY ABOUT 100 MEN EACH) IN ADDITION, UNTSO WOULD BE ENLARGED TO ASSIST UNEF WITH OBSERVATION AND INSPECTION - AS IS BEING DONE WITH UNDOF IN THE GOLAN. SECRETARIAT'S PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL OBSERVERS NEEDED RANGED FROM 70 TO 120. LIU STRESSED THAT THESE ESTIMATES WERE VERY TENTATIVE; INDEED OVERALL PLANNING FOR SINAI OPERATION WOULD NOT FIRM UP UNTIL AFTER USYG URQUHART'S RETURN FROM JERUSALEM OCTOBER 6.

5. LIU SAID THAT ACCORDING TO PRESENT THINKING NUMBER OF U.S. AND U.S.S.R. OBSERVERS WOULD NOT BE INCREASED. IDEA WAS TO AUGMENT SEVERAL OTHER EXISTING OBSERVER GROUPS AND POSSIBLY TO ASK HELP FROM SOME ASIANS, SUCH AS IRAN AND NEPAL. LIU NOTED THAT UNDER SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, US AND USSR WOULD PROBABLY NO LONGER HAVE SAME NUMBER OF OBSERVERS AS LARGEST OTHER NATIONAL GROUP AS SPECIFIED IN EXISTING AGREEMENT. HE ASKED IF THAT WOULD CONCERN US. WE SAID WE THOUGHT NOT, BUT WOULD ASK. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

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6. FINALLY, LIU NOTED THAT IF UNTSO WERE ASKED TO ASSIST UNEF IN THE WAY DESCRIBED, URQUHART'S INTENTION WAS TO DEPLOY U.S. AND U.S.S.R. TEAMS IN THE NORTH, NOT IN THE MORE SENSITIVE SOUTHERN AREA.
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